

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 IO-10 L-03 /028 W

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R 190200Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5621

INFO HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

UNCLAS TOKYO 17999

FOR HICOM AND STATUS LNO

CINCPACREP PASS SAIPAN FOR HICOM AND STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TQ JA EAIR

SUBJECT: CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA VISIT TO JAPAN TO PURSUE SAIPAN
ROUTE CASE

REF: TOKYO 17455

1. DURING TELEPHONE DISCUSSION ON ANOTHER MATTER, MIN FON
AFF FIRST N.A. DIV MATSUOZAWA MENTIONED THAT AM AFF BUR DEPUTY
DIRGEN ASAO HAD "FOUND TIME TO RECEIVE" COM DELEGATION
DURING THEIR RECENT VISIT TOKYO. COM DELEGATES WERE
ACCOMPANIED BY JAPANESE/MICRONESIAN SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE
AND ATTORNEY MICHAEL WHITE.

2. ACCORDING MATSUOZAWA, COM DELEGATION EXPRESSED VIEW THAT
PRESIDENT RETURNED SAIPAN ROUTE CASE TO USCAB OWING TO
OPPOSITION OF GOJ AND ASKED THAT, IF USCAB AGAIN
RECOMMENDS CONTINENTAL, GOJ NOT CONTINUE OBJECTIONS.

3. ASAO REPORTEDLY STATED THAT GOJ IS INTERESTED IN
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA AND HAS NO DIRECT
PREJUDICE AGAINST CONTINENTAL BUT THAT GOJ MUST VIEW
CASE IN LARGER FRAMEWORK OF U.S./JAPAN AVIATION
RELATIONS. GOJ BELIEVES GUAM/SAIPAN IS ONE MARKET AND,
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FROM TRAFFIC DATA AVAILABLE, JUDGES THAT TWO CARRIERS

ALREADY FLYING TOKYO/GUAM ROUTE (PAA AND JAL) ARE
LOSING MONEY. A NEW CARRIER WOULD SIMPLY ADD TO THE
PRESENT OVER CAPACITY AND AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION.

4. COM THEN REPORTEDLY PRESENTED ARGUMENT THAT SERVICE
BY A NEW CARRIER ON THE ROUTE WOULD STIMULATE DEMAND
BUT THE MFA REFUSED TO BUY THIS. THE MEETING
APPARENTLY ENDED WITH THE GOJ SAYING IT WOULD
"KEEP THE MICRONESIAN POSITION IN MIND".

5. MATSUOZAWA STATED IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THE GOJ
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE
MID-JANUARY TO PRESENT ONCE AGAIN THE GOJ POSITION
ON THE CASE.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: MATSUOZAWA DID NOT MENTION WHETHER OR
NOT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ROUTE'S GOING TO PAN AM WAS
DISCUSSED. HOWEVER, WE HAVE DISTINCT IMPRESSION GOJ
IS GETTING USED TO IDEA THAT CARRIER FOR SAIPAN ROUTE
WILL BE DESIGNATED AND WOULD GRUDGINGLY ACQUIESCE
IN AWARD TO PAN AM.

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